

The Baptist Record

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Yazoo City goes to Las Vegas

When the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 13, the folks from Yazoo City, will be well represented. Joy Yates is 1989 president of the Ministers' Wives Conference. Her husband, James F. (Jim) Yates, is pastor of First Church, Yazoo City.

Guest speaker at the 12:15 p.m. luncheon at the Sahara Hotel will be Jerry Clower, long-time Yazoo City resident and member of Yazoo City's First Baptist Church for more than 30

years. Clower, who moved to his birth place of Liberty, Miss., only last year, is a country humorist, member of the Grand Ole Opry, and a recording artist and author.

Special music will be provided by duo pianists, Carol Joy (Yates) Sparkman of Jackson, and Mike Smith of Arlington, Texas. Carol Sparkman is the daughter of Jim and Joy Yates, and the wife of Tommy Sparkman, minister of education at Parkway Church, Jackson. Carol Joy

is the staff pianist and is on the music faculty at Mississippi College.

Theme of this year's Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon is "A Joyful Heart." Advance tickets are \$13 each if ordered before June 1. Prices at the Convention Booth are \$15 each. To order tickets by mail, send check for \$13.00 to June Myers, Box 5010, Reno, Nevada 89513. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with each order.

Lottie Moon gifts up 11 percent

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists gave nearly 11 percent more in 1988 than in 1987 to the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for foreign missions, according to projections based on a survey of selected state

conventions.

The news offered a ray of hope to missions officials forced last year to trim budgets.

By March 9, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had received about \$58 million in Lottie Moon gifts. Projections indicated that by the final tally May 31, the total could amount to \$77.5 million.

"I think this demonstrates that when Southern Baptists really are aware of the need in missions, they continue to respond," said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "When they really knew the budget difficulties we were facing, they responded generously."

Because of the expected increase, the board will be able to release about \$4.6 million immediately for urgent capital needs overseas.

These capital needs include such basics as housing and transportation for missionaries and loan funds for overseas church construction, board officials said.

Pilot of crippled airplane thanks God for safe landing

HONOLULU, Hawaii (EP) — God gets the credit for the safe landing of crippled United Airlines plane, according to a Honolulu newspaper. Pilot David Cronin guided the damaged plane to safety at Honolulu International Airport with only two of its four engines, after a 10-by-20 foot hole opened in the side of the plane.

"His overall reaction was he gives all the credit to the Heavenly Father watching over him," Cronin's daughter, Karen Twigg-Smith, told the Honolulu Advertiser. "That's one of the first things he told me when I first talked to him: 'I give all the credit to the Lord.' I told him, 'Dad, it's your skill,' and he said, 'But the Lord gave me that skill.'"

Cronin has not spoken publicly about the incident on the flight, which was to have been the next to last of his career. The plane, which was bound for Auckland, New Zealand, carried 354 people, nine of whom are missing after being sucked out of the plane. Cronin, 59, has flown for United Airlines for more than 34 years.

Black Baptists: full partners in denomination

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Black Southern Baptists are now "full partners" in the denomination and should seek to start new churches in predominantly black communities, Emmanuel McCall told black church extension leaders.

McCall, director of the black church extension division at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, pledged to lead Southern Baptists to have 5,000 predominantly black congregations by A.D. 2000. Currently, there are 1,073 black churches, he said.

McCall, who previously directed the HMB black church relations department, addressed the group during the agency's annual new church extension conference in Oklahoma City. Under a board-wide reorganization begun Jan. 1, the old unit was renamed black church extension division.

"In many respects, ours is now a different program," McCall said. "We have recognized the presence of black people within the Southern Baptist Convention. We are now full partners."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES



Argentine preaches

Alfonso Almedo, right, of Hemet, Calif. was the preacher during a revival meeting at First Church, Crystal Springs. It was a missions revival. Olmedo is a native of Argentina and was the interpreter during much of the visit of Mississippians in 1981 as they were in Argentina preparing for the partnership arrangement with the Baptists of that nation. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and preached over much of Mississippi as a seminary student. He was winding up his Argentine ministry when the Mississippians made the visit. He was supported during much of his ministry by First Church, Austin, Texas. Mrs. Almedo is second from right; and Joel Haire, pastor of the church, and Mrs. Haire are pictured.

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Performance was a major part of the church music conference. One of the performers was Jenny Lou Breland, who is retiring this year from William Carey College. The conference presented her with a resolution of appreciation. Here she plays an arrangement of "His Eye is on the Sparrow," on her violin.



Beryl Red, a Southern Baptist who is a music producer in New York, leads music conference participants in a choral anthem. He was joined on the program by Al Travis, professor of organ at Southwestern Seminary who led an organ seminar.



These are the new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference. From left they are Jerry Morgan, minister of music at Lakeshore Church, Jackson, secretary-treasurer; Jim Hess, minister of music at First Church, Vicksburg, president-elect; Billy Vaughan, minister of music at First Church, Laurel; and Karen Hardy, music associate at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, vice president. The conference has just over 100 members. (Tim Nicholas photos)

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Gambling didn't die

It looks as though someone has snookered the state Legislature. Or maybe it is that someone in the Legislature has snookered the people of Mississippi.

Last year the Legislature refused to allow a casino ship to operate its gambling tables inside of Mississippi Sound, and the ship left the state. It was a 167-foot vessel.

This year a 500-foot vessel steams into Mississippi Sound and announces that it is going to operate as a cruise vessel. Five hundred feet . . . that is the length of one football field and two-thirds of another one. It is bound to cost more to operate a 500-foot ship than one of 167 feet, yet the 500-foot ship had come in to take people on cruises after one of 167 feet had pulled out because it said it could not operate profitably without gambling.

The operators of the 500-foot vessel made no bones about having gambling. It simply was said that it would go out 12 miles before the tables would be opened.

That didn't last long. Pretty quickly the ship's operators said that unless Mississippi okayed gambling in Mississippi Sound, the ship would move to Texas.

The Legislature had already turned down requests again this year to authorize gambling in the state, but the threat paid off. The Legislature set aside the rules by which it conducts its business and decided to reconsider the issue of gambling in the Sound.

The interesting thing is that it was an empty threat. Texas does not allow gambling within the 12-mile limit. In fact, if a gambling ship docked at a

Texas port, its equipment would be confiscated.

The deadline was passed, but the bill was introduced. When it got to the Senate floor, 12 senators decided either to absent themselves from the proceedings or not vote.

On that second time around, the bill passed by a vote of 23 to 17. Only 40 of the 52 senators voted.

Baptists generally look upon gambling as being a moral issue, so that concept makes it of interest to see how Baptists voted. In the Senate, of the 17 senators who voted against the measure, 12 were Baptists. Of the 23 who voted for the measure, 10 were Baptists. Of the 12 senators who didn't vote, eight were Baptists.

The bill, SB 3069, went to the House, where it was passed the next day in record time. The skids were well greased from the beginning, because both houses had concurrent resolutions to set aside their rules and bring up the measure. The Senate simply beat the House to it.

In the House the vote was 65 for, 39 against, six paired, and 12 did not vote. Of the 39 who voted against the bill, 26 were Baptists. Of the 65 who voted for it, 20 were Baptists. In the pairings, three were Baptists. Two were for the bill, and one was against it. Of those not voting, five were Baptists.

The justification given for accepting this measure when others were defeated is that in this case the ship could open its gambling tables only when it heads toward international waters. That means that it must go more than 12 miles out if it is to allow gambling on the way out. But it could begin the gambling the moment the bow is turned toward the open water.

The new arrangement would allow the ship to make more trips. It could go out 12 miles and come back immediately and allow gambling going and coming. Otherwise it would have to wait until it reached international waters 12 miles out and then spend four hours or so with its gambling tables operating. Surely it will not take the operators long to figure this out. Not having to spend so much time away from port will save operating money as well as making more trips possible.

The hope is that this measure would increase tourism for the Gulf Coast. It might. Also it would call for more taxes to pay for a beefed up law enforcement operation, it would help organized crime, it would help prostitution, and it would open the door for the legalization of all sorts of gambling in the state.

Those who voted against the measure in the Senate were Bean, Blanton, Bond, Bryan, Burkes, Graham, Guerieri, Harvey, Keeton, Mills, Morgan, Musgrove, Rosenblatt, Scoper, Thames, Wicker, and Williams.

Those who voted for the measure were Anderson, Bilbo, Briggs, Crook, Dearing, Deweese, Gollott, Hale, Hall, Harden, Huggins, Jordan, Mohamed, Montgomery, Monty, Posey, Rayborn, Sledge, Tate, Taylor, Usey, Welch, and White.

Those who didn't vote were Benjamin, Canon, Gordon, Harper, Harpole, Heflin, Lambert, Miller, Renick, Smith, Stogner, and Woodfield. Harper was hospitalized.

Voting against the bill in the House were Bowles, Britt, Eric Clark, Comans, Dabbs, Denny, Ellington, Foster,

"WEALTH FROM GAMBLING QUICKLY DISAPPEARS"

—Prov. 13:11(LB)



Frazier, Furniss, Grisham, Halbrook, Hanson, Holston, Horne, Lee, Livingston, McCoy, McMillan, Moody, Moss, Netherland, Nettles, Nipper, Reeves, Reynolds, Dorlos Robinson, Rogers, Scarborough, Schoby, Eloise Scott, Cecil Simmons, Miriam Simmons, Singletary, Stringer, Townsend, Vince, Wadkins, and Warren.

Voting for the measure in the House were Alford, Anderson, Blackman, Bounds, Bryan, Buckley, Buelow, Burdine, Capps, Clarke, Cole, Compretta, Diaz, Ellerby, Ellis, Ely, Endris, Endt, Flagg, Fortenberry, George, David Green, Jimmy Green, Guice, Haxton, Hebert, Henderson, Henry, Hines, Holland, Jackson, Jones, King, Malone, McCrory, McElwain, McIngvale, Merideth, Moak, Peranich, Perry, Poindexter, Walter

Robinson, Ross, Ryan, Morris Lee Scott, Sheppard, Short, Simpson, Stevens, Thomas, Underwood, Van Slyke, Vecchio, Waldrup, Alfred Walker, Brent Walker, Walman, Watson, Weissinger, Wilkerson, Williams, Woods, Young, and Ford (speaker).

The six who were paired were Robert Clark, Lancaster, and Fredericks for the bill paired against Tyrone, Grist, and Maples against the bill.

Those who didn't vote were Brown, Calhoun, Ditto, Mills, Morris, Parker, Pennebaker, Savage, Staples, Stribling, Taylor, and Wheeler.

If the governor signs the bill, we will have gambling in Mississippi. With a change of four votes in the Senate, the measure would have died.

Guest opinion . . .

Baptist doctrine: Why study it?

By Roy T. Edgemon
Part 2 of a 2-part series

Hitler placed increasing pressure on German pastors to support his regime. Finally, troops were dispersed into the churches to enforce that support. Martin Niemoller, knowing he would be arrested and imprisoned, stepped into the pulpit and preached his morning sermon, "God Alone Is My Fuehrer."

Niemoller did not simply resist; he witnessed to the truth. Doctrine, rightly incorporated into the believer's life, compels the believer to live with purpose, to hear God say at the end, "Well done, thou good and profitable servant."

What are some reasons Southern Baptists should study doctrine?

First, doctrine study helps us to put shape to what we believe. Everyone has a reservoir of beliefs. Doctrine study helps the believer organize and clarify beliefs, discarding those which are seen as wrong and organizing

those which are correct into a system which the mind can call on when decisions must be made.

Second, doctrine provides a foundation for Christian life. Doctrine is not just for knowing but for doing (James 1:22). It helps us in personal decisions, in seeking God's will, in knowing how to pray, in voting on church decisions, in participating in government, in meeting social problems, in missions and evangelism, and all else.

Third, doctrine provides principles for ethical choices. The Bible provides clear guidance on some ethical issues. We should live by them simply because God commanded us to do so. This commitment is not just blind faith; it is based on another doctrinal truth that God desires the best for us.

Fourth, doctrine provides a framework for our value system. Some ethical choices are not spoken to directly in the Bible. We are very much at sea if we do not have a strong foundation from which to make those

choices. Some basic doctrines of God, Man, Christ, and Redemption will help to make choices that are consistent with who God is and who he expects us to be.

Fifth, doctrine shapes and determines our actions. As noted already, we do not believe just to believe. A theory called "cognitive dissonance" holds that what a person believes (cognitive) must be compatible with how he lives. If it is not, he becomes disoriented (dissonance). He will be unable to function effectively until he either changes his life or his beliefs. Good doctrine, truly appropriated into life, will compel a believer to act on the basis of truth. It will become the driving force which overwhelms the soul until the believer cries out to God. "What wilt thou have me to do?"

Sixth, doctrine helps us understand and counteract false teaching. This value may be negative, but negatives are not necessarily bad. We do not fight against false doctrine to

demonstrate our debating skills or to force conformity. We fight it because it mars what God intended us to be.

Seventh, doctrine helps us grow toward Christian maturity. This is the purpose for which God created us. All humans are created in God's image, but the only way we can fulfill that image is by growing more Christlike. We were created to be born again, and being born again is but the start of the journey.

Eighth, doctrine helps us share the gospel. A New Testament church is one that evangelizes. Every believer should share the gospel. Good doctrine helps us understand that we are in covenant with Jesus Christ himself to take him to everyone who does not believe.

Ninth, doctrine shapes and molds the church. Notice how a church building is constructed. Where is the pulpit? How does the congregation relate to the pastor? How is the educational space utilized? Is there a baptistry? Every architectural feature of a church building is dictated by what its members believe. Members' beliefs also affect how a church conducts business, how it spends its income, how much effort is expended to involve members in ministry, and what kinds of training are offered. All

of these and more are built off what a church is doctrinally.

Tenth, doctrine determines the course and destiny of Christian civilization. When all of the first nine values are added up, those pertaining to the individual and to the church, the result is nothing less than the future of Christianity. Of course, God's will ultimately will be accomplished whether we are faithful or not. But make no mistake about it: Our faithfulness or lack of it has an enormous impact on how soon and to what extent God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.

The 1989 Baptist Doctrine Study book is a good place to start or review doctrine. The *Doctrines - Baptists Believe* is a composite book covering 10 key doctrines, providing a good overview. Similar books are provided for youth, older and younger children, with other recommended studies for preschoolers. For help and ideas, contact your state church training director. Pastors are invited to attend a Baptist Doctrine Study clinic in your area.

Baptist Doctrine Study will be conducted April 16-20 in many churches.

Roy Edgemon is director of the Church Training Department at the Sunday School Board.

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Alta Woods will host performing arts fest

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will host the 1989 Christian Performing Arts Festival, April 7-8.

The festival will include instruction and performance in drama, pageantry, puppetry, and clowning.

The program begins at 6 p.m., April 7, and concludes the next day at 3:30.

Gerald Ray of Houston, Tex., will lead the pageantry session for church ministers of music. Buddy Holland, minister of recreation at Two Rivers Baptist church, Nashville, will lead the advanced puppetry session. There will also be a session for beginning puppeteers to be led by Jim Keyser of First Church, Calhoun City.

Clowning will have beginning and advanced sessions. Huey Dedmon of First Church, Greenville will lead the beginners. Mrs. Betty Hudson of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, will lead the advanced.

Under drama, Steven Bath of Jackson will teach "How to Begin." Gloria Ray Crittenden of Clinton will teach improvisation. Stan Tucker of Jackson will teach monologues. Allen Stevens of First Church, Lyman, will teach technical skills. And there will also be sessions of acting, directing, and stage crafting.



Ray

Holland

Separate conference for ministers of music and for ministers of recreation/activities will take place during the festival.

Teams of puppeteers, clowns, and drama groups will have the opportunity to be judged for performance skills.

To register, write Robin Nichols, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Enclose \$13 per person for a light breakfast, lunch, and materials. A Baptist Book Store display will be at the church.

Those staying at the Red Roof Inn or Metro Best Western should ask for Mississippi Baptist Convention rates.

The festival is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Training and Church Music Departments.

Southeastern elects Bush despite faculty protest

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — L. Russ Bush III survived faculty disapproval and a split vote by trustees to be elected academic vice president/dean of the faculty at Southeastern Seminary.

Trustees of the seminary here discussed Bush behind closed doors for more than three hours March 13, before electing him on a secret-ballot vote, 22-8.

Bush, 44, is associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Seminary, Texas, where he has taught since 1973. During his acceptance speech, he pledged to be a peacemaker at Southeastern. The campus has been marked by controversy since October 1987, when the seminary's new conservative trustee majority changed the way the school chooses its teachers, vesting more responsibility with the president and trustees.

Bush's predecessor, Morris Ashcraft, subsequently joined then-President W. Randall Lolley and several faculty and administrators in resigning. They cited the policy changes — which they interpreted as ensuring that only biblical inerrantists could be elected to the faculty and as shutting faculty out of the process of selecting their peers — as the reason.

New President Lewis A. Drummond nominated Bush for the academic post. But the faculty twice voted non-support for Bush.

They cited "his total lack of administrative experience" in a statement prepared by the seminary's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

They also faulted him for "bias in his writing, his expectation that this faculty would support inerrancy in some form, his affiliation with the fundamentalist leadership in the convention, and his lack of understanding of the history or traditions of Baptists in this area."

Bush's election was the "clear leadership of God," said James Bryant, pastor from Fort Smith, Ark., and chairman of the trustee instruction committee. "It was affirmed by

the strong trustee vote and Dr. Bush's strong spirit of service, peace, reconciliation, and humility exhibited in his acceptance speech."

Relationships with faculty have been strained by Bush's nomination over the faculty's protest, their votes against him and a memo to trustees in which he said, "... it is absolutely essential that a conservative majority on the faculty be achieved as soon as possible."

The memo's first request was that trustees "deal with every concern the faculty raised," Bush said. Noting the specific context of his much-circulated quote dealt with procedural matters that would require faculty concurrence, he added, "It seemed to me it would be impossible to proceed" without the support of a majority.

The term "conservative majority" means "people who would not be opposed to the president and administration," he said.

Bush discussed several topics during the news conference. They included:

— Faculty selection. The criteria for new faculty include "whether the person affirms our (doctrinal) statement," he said. "I also would want to know other things: Are they Baptist? Are they active in church? Do they hold to Baptist beliefs, such as baptism by immersion, symbolic Lord's Supper, the Trinity, the deity of Christ, repentance, and regeneration?"

"Inerrancy is the issue only in the sense that they say that the Bible sometimes teaches things that are not true. Then they have stepped outside the boundaries of our historic confessional life."

— Charges of liberalism. "I'm not sure that exists here," he said, noting that if specific charges were made, he would meet with the faculty member and seek to clarify the position.

Bush is a Mississippi native. He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and has earned two degrees from Southwestern Seminary and studied at North Texas State University in Denton and Cambridge University in England.

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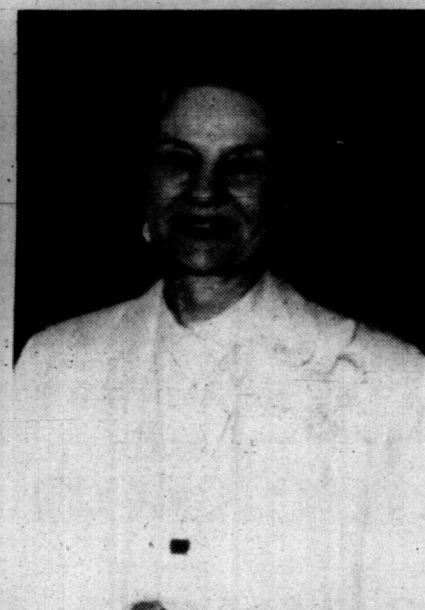
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State WMU installs Tyler as president

By Anne W. McWilliams



New officers elected by Mississippi WMU are Joan Tyler, Collins, president, right and Stuart Calvert, Ashland, secretary-historian.

Members of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union looked at the theme, "Find Us Faithful," as they gathered at Colonial Hills Baptist Church, Southaven, March 20-21, for the organization's 110th annual meeting, and its first meeting in the second century of WMU, SBC.

The women installed a new president, took an offering for the Second Century Fund, heard addresses by heads of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission, and the wife of the head of the Home Mission Board. They listened to missionaries give reports of their work in Singapore, Bangladesh, Trinidad, and Brazil, and heard a message from the director of the state evangelism department.

Wilda Fancher of Monticello presided in her fifth year as president of Mississippi WMU. At the end of the closing session, Joan Tyler of Collins took office as president. Under a new plan, only two state officers will now serve. The other one, also newly elected, is Stuart Calvert, Ashland, secretary-historian.

Offerings taken on Monday evening and Tuesday morning were given to the Second Century Fund, WMU, SBC, an endowment fund, in honor of Earl Kelly, who is to retire this summer as executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and his wife, Marjorie.

Music was under direction of Libby Jones of Salem Heights Church, Laurel, who presented a mini-concert on Tuesday evening, as well as special music at each of the other sessions. Dot Pray, Church Music Department, Jackson, was organist, and Elizabeth Cothern of Walls was pianist.

Another who presented special music was Betty Jo Lewis of Atlanta, who was also a featured speaker on Tuesday morning. It was in a GA camp, she said, when she was a girl, that she surrendered to missions: "I answered the call to home missions. I was timid and bashful and didn't want to go far away from home." Now she is wife of the president of the Home Mission Board, Larry Lewis. After she had asked for prayer for home missionaries across the nation, she added, "We don't pray FOR our work. Prayer IS our work."

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC, spoke at the beginning of each session on "Find Us

Faithful" — through teaching through mission action, through mission support, and through the church.

As she explained the importance of teaching missions in churches today she said, "We suffer from cognitive overload. We are bombarded with so much information that our minds can hardly contain it all." Nevertheless she said, "Don't let your church thin mission study is not needed today, because 'those who are taught will become the teachers.'"

In talking about witnessing, she shared a happening in her own life from the recent past: She had boarded a plane and sat down, full of stress (Continued on page 6)

Cannatas' son dies in Ethiopia

MEZZEZO, Ethiopia (BP) — A Southern Baptist volunteer in Ethiopia, and son of a Mississippian, died March 17 shortly after he plunged down a mountainside trapped in his pickup truck.

The volunteer, Stan Cannata, reportedly died about 20 minutes after the fall. An Ethiopian co-worker and a local farmer took 10 or 15 minutes to reach his body, which had been thrown from the truck, said John Faulkner, who directs Southern Baptist mission work in eastern and southern Africa.

Cannata, 27, was trying to free the truck from soft mud at the edge of a cliff about three miles from the village of Mezzezo. The incident occurred about 2:30 p.m. Ethiopian time.

Cannata and Ethiopian co-worker

Wossenseged Berhanu had been driving out of the Ethiopian highlands toward Addis Ababa, the capital city. Cannata pulled off the road to shoot photographs of surrounding canyons.

Cannata, a child of missionaries who grew up in Africa, began a planned one-year stint in Ethiopian water development work last May. He was engaged to be married this summer to Elizabeth Chism of Dallas.

Most recently, Cannata had been working in the Lalomed area capping springs to produce clean water. With an Ethiopian team there, he was helping to prepare a Baptist center that eventually will offer veterinary and agricultural assistance.

Berhanu is one of a handful of Ethiopians who helped Southern Baptists open their first feeding operation

at Rabel during Southern Baptist famine relief efforts in 1985.

Cannata was the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Sam and Ginny Cannata, whose most recent assignment has been on the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania, just off the African mainland. The Cannatas worked in medical evangelism for several years in Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe and in the Ethiopian highlands. They also worked in Kenya and the Sudan. He is a medical doctor from Waco, Texas; she is from Hollandale, Miss.

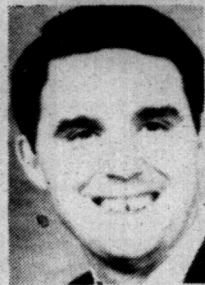
Contacted just hours after their son's death, the Cannatas decided he should be buried on Ethiopian soil.

His family asked that any memorials in his name be sent to the Foreign Mission Board designated "Water for Africa."

The cost of victory

By Greg Potts
Judges 11:29-40

Some time ago, I read about a county that seceded from a Southern state for one day. This secession took place during the Civil War. The people had threatened to secede from both the Union and the Confederacy. They were torn between loyalty to the Union cause and the cause of the Confederacy. They were committed to neither.



Potts

Many Christians reflect that attitude today. They are not for Satan and they are not completely for the Lord. The result is they never experience the glory of victory in the Christian life. Most everyone I know wants to go to heaven. However, not everyone is willing to pay the price to get there.

There is a cost involved in victory. The story of Jephthah, the ninth judge of Israel, is one of the saddest stories in the Bible. In this story we find a man who was willing to pay the price of victory. We find that Jephthah made:

I. A vow to the Lord. As the battle began, Jephthah was so overwhelmed with his desire for victory he promised God that whatever came out of the doors of his house to meet him upon his return from battle, it would be the Lord's and would be offered as an offering.

Occasionally someone will make a vow to the Lord during a time of crisis. Do we keep our vows?

The story also reveals Jephthah achieved:

II. A victory from the Lord. The Bible tells us the Lord gave the Ammonites into Jephthah's hand. Jephthah was victorious! What was the reason for the victory? Jephthah was willing to make a sacrifice!

Finally, the story reveals Jephthah displayed:

III. Valor for the Lord. The word valor means "a strength of mind, or ability that enables a man to encounter danger with firmness." It is the ability to see something through. That is what Jephthah had!

As he approached his home, he saw his only child, his daughter, coming out to meet him. Imagine what would have gone through your mind as you saw your only child coming out of your home! Jephthah remembered the vow he had made and he kept it.

Making a commitment to our Lord, and following through on it. That's what Jephthah did. That is the price of victory!

Potts is pastor, Providence Church near Meadville.

Criswell College may buy Belgian school

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — A final decision on whether Criswell College in Dallas will buy an evangelical school complex in Belgium should be announced by the end of April, according to Criswell President Paige Patterson.

Patterson was in Brussels in mid-March to lead a Bible study at International Baptist Church and to consult with leaders of the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education at nearby Louvain about purchasing the 10-acre complex.

The Belgian Center for Biblical Education is the umbrella title for five divisions that have functioned on the site, including a French language Bible institute, a Dutch-language Bible institute, a conference center, a counseling center, and the Evangelical Theological Faculty. The last entity is considered important because it is accredited by the Belgian government to offer degrees equal to university-level degrees.

Baptists are included among about 160 students and some faculty members, but most are members of the Evangelical Free Churches or the Dutch Reformed Church. Many students come from the Netherlands.

During the week of March 19, Patterson was scheduled to travel from Brussels to Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He hoped to discuss the school transaction with John David Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary who is president of International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon. Patterson also planned to meet with Baptist leaders and professors in West Germany. Later, he said, he plans to talk by telephone with other Baptist leaders in Europe, including Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, the representative body of 26 Baptist unions and conventions in Europe.

The possible purchase has been criticized by R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, as being contrary to the spirit of cooperation Southern Baptists have forged with European Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board. Parks also said Patterson, currently a Foreign Mission Board trustee, should have discussed the move with board officials and European Baptist leaders.

Patterson met March 18 with Henri Bens, president of the Union of Baptists in Belgium, to discuss the school purchase.

Patterson also met informally with several Southern Baptist missionaries in Belgium to discuss the possible school purchase. He opened the session at International Baptist Church by specifying, "as I promised Keith Parks I would," that the purchase has nothing to do with the Foreign Mission Board but is being undertaken solely by First Baptist Church of Dallas, sponsor of Criswell College.

Patterson said he does not feel his involvement with the school purchase is a conflict of interest with his role as a Foreign Mission Board trustee.

Rather, he said, it has "a lot to do with the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of believers."

Criswell College's annual budget is \$4.5 million, Patterson said, and he and his staff must raise all of it.

Asked "how Baptist" the school would be if purchased, Patterson said: "I am, as you know, a Baptist in the totality of my being. We want to be of assistance to any evangelicals, and we will try not to make them feel ill at ease, but our first love and first commitment would naturally be helping the Baptist churches of Europe." Non-Baptist evangelicals would be welcome to attend the school, he said, just as they are welcome to attend Criswell College.

Patterson stressed that the potential purchase should not be viewed as a reaction to recent events at the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon. He said Criswell College was approached by the Belgian school's leaders about buying the institution more than three years ago — long before the time last year when the Ruschlikon seminary, faced with its own financial problems, considered buying the Belgian campus and moving there.

Instead, Foreign Mission Board trustees voted last October to turn over ownership of the seminary to the European Baptist Federation and pledged long-term support of the school, which will remain at Ruschlikon. Patterson was one of eight trustees voting against the decision.

Mike Creswell, Baptist Press overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, is based in Brussels.

European journalists visit state

Three European journalists were in Jackson last week and visited the Baptist Record. They were Hans Helmreich of Munich, Germany; Annick Segros of Paris, France; and Rolf Geckler of Copenhagen, Denmark.

In their visits they were to cross the nation twice before returning to their homes in Europe. They were moving west from Mississippi and would be in California and the Northwest before turning back.

The three were part of a much larger contingent. Even smaller groups had been divided with the remainder of the Jackson visitors' group being in Little Rock, Ark., at the time.

The visit, they said, was made in an effort to gain a better understanding of the United States and carry the word back to their readers. It was an exchange procedure funded by Europeans and made in a spirit of thankfulness for the Marshall Plan, the system of United States grants following World War II that was responsible in a great measure for the rebuilding of Europe.

Jackson sends media challenge

By Toby Druin

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — If Paul Pressler will get off the denominational stage, Richard Jackson will move aside, too, and try to lead his church to continue or even increase its Cooperative Program support, Jackson said in mid-March.

Pressler is a Houston layman, generally considered the architect of the conservative movement that has taken control of the Southern Baptist Convention over the last decade. He is a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Jackson, is pastor of North Phoenix Church here and an outspoken opponent of the changes in the nomination. He has been nominated for president of the SBC four times, including 1988.

"I told a friend of Jerry Vines that if Vines could get a pledge from Pressler that he would resign from the Executive Committee, promise never to hold office among Southern Baptists again, and not to politic or voice his opinions, not pressure anybody — just go back to Houston, to his church — then I would make a pledge to never nominate anyone for office or be nominated or hold any trusteeship in Southern Baptist life," Jackson said.

"And I would try to lead my church to keep its giving level (more than \$1 million yearly) as it is now and try to increase it."

He has received no response to the offer, Jackson said, "but it still stands."

Pressler, contacted by the Baptist Standard, said that he has a telephone, and if Jackson wants to talk to him, Jackson can call him.

"I have tried to communicate with Richard Jackson so he could know my heart, so we could understand each other," Pressler said. "To communicate through the media is not promoting good will or proclamation of the gospel."

There are too many people who would rather hear a good sermon on Sunday than live one through the week.

Jackson considers asking church to lower giving

By Toby Druin & Greg Warner

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Concerned that Southern Baptist Convention leaders are "more interested in establishing a lobby in Washington than reaching people for Christ," Richard Jackson said he is considering leading his church to go "independent" or possibly to cut its support of the SBC budget to the level given by churches of the denomination's presidents of the last decade.

Jackson noted the presence of independent Baptist Jerry Falwell on the program of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Las Vegas, Nev., in June and added some SBC leaders had approached him (Jackson) about welcoming Falwell into the convention.

"I said, 'Not until he becomes a cooperating Southern Baptist,'" Jackson said, noting Falwell has spent much of his time criticizing Southern Baptists.

"Who would have thought in 1980 that in 1989 Jerry Falwell would be preaching at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting and Richard Jackson would be considering being an independent Baptist?" Jackson said.

Jackson's church has contributed more than \$1 million each year for the last three years — more than \$7 million this decade — in support of the CP and has baptized almost 12,000 new converts in the last 10 years — 1,106 in 1988.

"By independent, I meant just what I said," Jackson told the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly news-journal "that is, not affiliated with the convention as we have always been."

"Now understand this is me, Richard Jackson, talking and not North Phoenix Baptist Church. I see the convention moving where I am not. We hear a lot of talk about

reaching people for Christ, but I see a lot more emphasis on establishing a lobby in Washington.

"Down that road I can't go. If the convention goes down the road of church interference with the state or over-concern about Washington, D.C., I am not going. I am a dyed-in-the-wool church/state separationist."

"I am pressured all the time to turn my church into an anti-abortion stage. I am against abortion, but that is not my main issue. I am going to preach Jesus, against sin and for salvation. I am going to try to get people right with God."

"The ironic thing is that when this (controversy) started, people were saying our seminaries were getting so liberal we weren't going to win anyone to Jesus. Now we have the attention of the seminaries, and we are getting so interested in running the government we are not going to win anyone to Jesus."

Jackson's mention of a Washington lobby was a reference to the proposed establishment by the SBC of a new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington to represent the denomination in church/state affairs. Jackson opposed the proposal while attending the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

It broke his heart, he said, to see the Executive Committee approve the Religious Liberty Commission proposal after SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks had told them it would hurt the SBC missions program.

"They not only didn't agree with him, they didn't even listen to him," Jackson said. "They showed him no respect. That was the sense I got."

The Phoenix pastor said he has led

his church to trim its budget to the bone to maintain its Cooperative Program support, but in light of the direction the denomination is taking, he can "no longer look my people in the face and ask them to sacrifice the way they do and neglect local programs."

"My people are Southern Baptists because I am," he said, "because North Phoenix Baptist Church is Southern Baptist and they joined it. They have supported the Cooperative Program because I have asked them to do it, and they have done it gladly. But it costs us to do it. And considering what has been happening, I don't know if I can continue to ask them to make the sacrifice."

Jackson said he had mentioned his concern at his church's annual deacons' retreat March 10-11 and asked the 200 men there to pray about it and any decision to be made by the church.

"My problem is I feel so bad about calling myself a Southern Baptist and even talking about cutting support of the Cooperative Program," he said.

"These other guys (SBC presidents over the last decade) talk about not cutting back on the Cooperative Program or continuing support, and it's easy for them to say because they never have supported it much in the first place."

"They criticize people in the Southern Baptist Alliance for withholding funds, when they (recent presidents' churches) have never given much. If you have never given much, you can brag and say, 'I don't withhold anything.'"

Whatever North Phoenix does, he said, "any decision will take a long time and a lot of prayer, and I hope the decision can be that we can stay as Southern Baptists and continue full cooperation and full support."

Thursday, March 30, 1989

Gulfshore registration is underway

By Frank Simmons, Manager
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

The Phase II construction at Gulfshore has been completed and all of Mississippi Baptists should be proud of the beautiful and modern conference facilities available to the churches of our state. Registration for summer events began with mail that was postmarked March 1 and will continue as long as space is available for the various events.

Some outstanding program leadership has already been enlisted by the various program leaders. This summer promises to be an exciting season of fellowship and training, as well as a busy one with the new, modern, and functional facility that has been completed as a part of the Phase II construction project. Church groups, pastors and staff, and lay leadership are encouraged to be a part of the 1989 activities at Gulfshore.

Groups of persons wishing to make reservations should send the following information: name and date of conference; whether family, individual, or group; number of males, females, couples, and children's names and ages; type of accommodations desired (if applicable). Reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$30 per person, age two and up, or \$60 per family unit.

This deposit applies toward the total conference cost. All reservation requests must be made in writing. Additional registration information is available in the 1989 Programs Brochure, which may be obtained by contacting the Gulfshore office (452-7261) or the program director's office in the Baptist Building (968-3800).

Gulfshore programs begin May 15 and continue for the 13 weeks of the summer. Conferences are planned for the whole church family with events designed for children, youths, adults, and senior adults. Some new conferences have been added to the schedule in an effort to reach a wider group of our churches' enlisted leadership.

The leadership training events offer special prices for families with children in attendance and also offer wholesome recreational opportunities in addition to the outstanding program personnel. It is not too late for group leaders and churches to make their plans and reservations. If additional information is needed, contact the Gulfshore office.

Unified budget lags inflation

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' unified budget continues to stay ahead of last year's pace, but it lags more than 1.5 percentage points behind inflation.

The national Cooperative Program received \$11,428,715 in February, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the denomination's Executive Committee. That amount is a 1.74 percent increase over February 1988.

At the end of five months of the fiscal year, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date total is \$58,670,856, Bennett reported. That total is 3.18 percent more than receipts for the first five months of 1987-88.

The most recent U.S. Department of Labor figures show the country's current inflation rate is about 4.7 percent.

Gulfshore Schedule 1989

Date	Contact
May 15-17	I SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE (CT) J. Clark Hensley
May 18-20	II SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE (CT) J. Clark Hensley
May 22-26	III SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE (CT) J. Clark Hensley
May 26-28	SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE (CT) J. Clark Hensley
May 29-June 2	I YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Jan Cossitt
June 2-6	II YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Jan Cossitt
June 6-10	III YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Larry Salter
June 12-16	IV YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Larry Salter
June 16-20	V YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Neron Smith
June 20-24	VI YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Jim Didlake
June 24-28	VII YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Jim Didlake
June 29-July 3	VIII YOUTH CONFERENCE (MBCB) Robin Nichols
July 3-7	FAMILY ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE (CT) J. Clark Hensley
July 10-12	CHURCH ADMINISTRATION-PASTORAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE (CAPM) Julius Thompson
	WEEKDAY MINISTRY CONFERENCE (CWE) (CAPM) David Michel
	STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE (SD) J. Ray Grissett
July 13-15	CHURCH MISSIONS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (CoMi) Norman Rodgers
July 17-21	CHURCH TRAINING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (CT) Robin Nichols
July 21-25	CHURCH RECREATION CONFERENCE (CM) Sarah Talley
July 25-29	YOUNG MUSICIANS CONFERENCE (CM) Susan Clark
July 29-Aug. 2	YOUNG MUSIC CONFERENCE (CM) L. Graham Smith
	MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
	I SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
	SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
	DEAF CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 3-5	II SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 7-9	III SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
	CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
August 10-12	IV SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
September 8-9	V SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson
September 15-16	VI SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SS) Keith Wilkinson

Central Hills summer camp registration opens April 1

Registration for Central Hills summer camp 1989 sessions will open April 1. Royal Ambassador (RA) boys and high school Baptist Young Men (HSBYM) (grades 4-12) may register for the Resident Camp sessions (Monday-Friday). There is a maximum of 170 per session. Boys (grades 1-3) and their dads may register for the Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions (Friday-Saturday). This has a maximum of 100 per session. Active participation in an RA or HSBYM unit is not required for a fellow to register.

Resident Camp Sessions

June 12-16	July 10-14
June 19-23	July 17-21
June 26-30	July 24-28
July 5-7	July 31-August 4

Lad-Dad Weekend Camp Sessions

June 23-24; July 7-8; July 21-22

New registration forms have been printed for the 1989 camp sessions. Each camper needs to complete an individual form. Included in the form is all the information parents need from Central Hills. Parents will provide all the information Central Hills needs for the camper. The form requests registration, health, and personal information. Each parent/camper will receive a confirmation receipt from Central Hills.

Each camper will need to list his choice of bunk mate on the same line where his name appears on the registration form.

The camp fee (payable with registration form) includes all the necessary fees for the resident camp session. It provides for lodging, "first call" insurance, snacks, crafts (1 or 2 projects) and souvenirs (a cap & t-shirt). A camper may bring additional money for more craft projects. More souvenirs and additional snacks may be purchased on Friday after lunch. This procedure will provide full information for our staff on each camper. It will simplify the bookkeeping procedures and speed the registration process each Monday morning.

The camp fee (payable with

registration form) for Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions provides for lodging and meals and "first call" insurance. Dads will need to be prepared with money for the snack/souvenir shop.

Several volunteer counselors are needed for each resident camp session. A volunteer can enlist a group of boys from his church or community and help with transportation for that group. Preferably the volunteer would work with a group of boys other than his own.

Registration forms are available from: Central Hills Baptist Retreat 601/289-9730, P. O. Box 237, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0237; your church office; your association office, or from the Brotherhood Department (601/968-3800), Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530; Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



Bolivar men build in California

Seven men left Cleveland, Feb. 17, for Salton City, Calif. They worked with Oasis Baptist Church in the construction of a new church building. This church is relocating nearer to the heavily populated area south of Palm Springs, close to the Salton Sea. They will carry on a regular ministry as well as a heavy resort ministry during the winter months. The team was the first on the site. They framed and did other early stage construction. The team was made up of the following: front — Taylor Burrell, D.A. (Doc) Brown, Will Coghlan; standing — Steve Kirkland, Carl Bullock, Clyde Weeks and W. A. Howarth. Shorty Hughes was going but became ill and was hospitalized shortly before leaving. The men returned to Cleveland on Feb. 26.

College grads volunteer

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. — Twenty-eight young men and women were commissioned as Southern Baptist missionary journeymen here Feb. 26.

They will work in 20 countries for the next two years, helping Southern Baptist career missionaries in school teaching, music, student ministries, clerical duties and communication projects.

The journeymen, all college graduates are 27 or younger, have completed five weeks of training at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The group was the 29th to be commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board since the program started in 1965.

The new journeymen will travel overseas in a few weeks.

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State WMU installs new president

(Continued from page 3)

sadness, and weariness, hoping no one would talk to her. The man beside her said, "You look like you need a friend." When she told him that her sister had just died, unexpectedly, he asked her, "How can you face all the stress and grief?" Then she told him about Jesus, and the strength that he gives her to face anything.

James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, illustrated the blessings of being a generous giver. "My wife usually ends up with more money than money," he said. He added that they try to live by the verse, "Give and it shall be given you . . ."

He recalled a year when they had given one tithe to the church, a second tithe to the church building fund, and extra gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering and Annie Armstrong Offering. He asked the pastor, "How much is the state missions goal going to be?" The pastor replied, "Oh, maybe \$666. We've never given much more than that. We could raise it to 777. We'll make it something we can meet."

Smith said, "Well, I'll match the gifts of all the rest of the members put together." The next Sunday the church gave \$1,975! Smith's wife had had some hospital bills, and their money was a bit low, but he said, "I won't go back on my promise."

The preacher announced the amount given, and asked, "Won't someone bring \$25.00, and make it \$2,000?" Nine people brought \$25.00! Smith had to borrow the money to match the offering.

The banker asked him, "What security will you put up?"

"The Lord will take care of it." The banker said he didn't usually take the Lord's word as security, but he granted the loan.

Within the next three weeks, Smith received over \$3,000 from people who owed him money.

Dent.

Seven missionaries, one who retired last year, spoke during the sessions, and also led in conferences at a prayer breakfast.

Don and Anne Dent, who will transfer from Singapore to Indonesia in May, asked for prayer that they will be able to get visas and that they will make good progress as they go to language school.

Don is the son of Pattie Dent of Holly Springs, former state WMU president and current recording secretary, WMU, SBC. He said, "My mother was active in WMU and my father in Brotherhood; my brothers and I have all worked as missionaries or missionary journeymen. So some people assumed we all memorized the prayer calendar every day by the time we were five! But this was not so. Our parents did not preach to us about missions. They simply believed in missions."

"People will say to me that my mother made a good speech here or there — (and it was good — but the day before at home she would have been saying, 'I don't know what I'm going to say . . .'). Her testimony is good, because God touched her, and through her, he touched us."

Thurman.

"There is only one safe place in the world tonight, and that is in the will of God," said Tom Thurman. In Bangladesh, he and his wife, Gloria, have lived through war, strikes (air, post office, bus), cyclones, floods, and

turmoil in the Moslem world. The Thurmans asked for prayer for missionaries in Bangladesh who daily witness suffering and need, that they may have sensitive spirits as they seek to meet the needs.

This is a time of responsiveness to the gospel in Bangladesh, said Gloria. The mission has set a goal of 200 churches by 1990. She said, "We have an assurance that the goal will be met."

Jacobs.

Jean Jacobs, who with her husband, John, retired last year from Trinidad, listed as prayer requests: "Pray for the calling out of young men to serve as pastors/lay leaders and for their willingness to study. Pray for Wendy Salandy, a young woman leader whose husband has recently died, leaving her with four children. Pray for an affordable piece of property for the Maraval Baptist Mission."

Johnston.

Vic Johnston, a youth camp worker, asked for prayer, as he implements two hunger relief projects in the state of Piaui, Brazil, and for a missionary couple to work in general evangelism in Teresina, Brazil, where he and his wife, Sharon, live. (One couple there will be retiring this year.)

Sharon plays a small pump organ at their church in Brazil. While in the U.S., she has studied MasterLife, and said she wants to go back and help disciple young women.

Evangelism.

"Find Us Faithful in Evangelism" was the topic assigned to Guy Henderson, director, department of evangelism, MBCB. "We say we need CWT, witness training for the lay evangelist . . . surely this is true. But the woman at the well — an unordained woman — was the best witness in town that day! What one needs (to be an effective evangelist) is a confrontation with Jesus."

Foreign Missions.

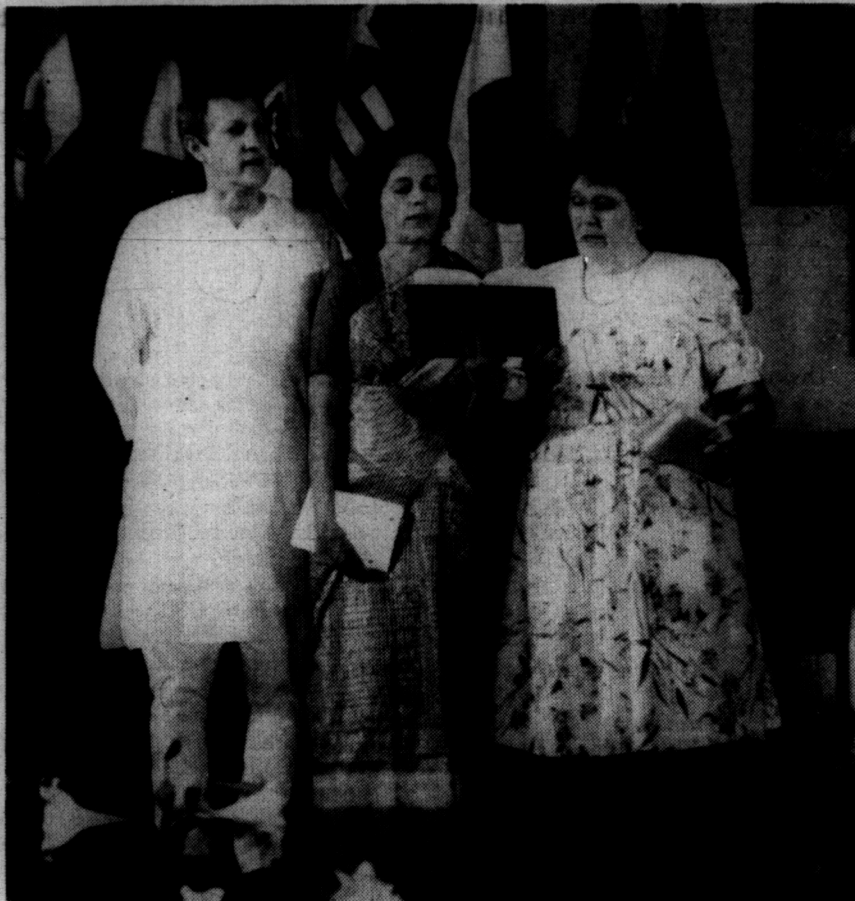
"Find Us Faithful in Foreign Missions": Keith Parks brought the closing challenge. "If we as God's people (all his people, not just the SBC) do not begin to give in a larger way, more than we are already giving, we will not stand before him and be found faithful."

Parks said that about 33 percent of the world calls itself Christian (much of this is in name only, but we don't know how many actually are, and how many are not); another 40 or 41 percent who live among us have rejected Christ, thus far. Among the other 26 percent, most have never yet heard the Gospel. "For a quarter of the world, there is virtually no hope." Yet, he said, there are 120 times as many workers with Christians as there are with the lost. Far more is spent on church staffs and buildings and workers for those who are already Christians than on reaching those who are lost.

"Something must be changed," Parks said, "or in a few years we will have to be explaining why we did not reach the world in our generation . . ."

"We could preach the gospel to all the world. We have the communications, the transportation, the resources to do that. God has entrusted Southern Baptists with such blessings. We have a tremendous responsibility . . . Our effectiveness in missions will be determined by the way we allow God to use us . . ."

"We will only reach the world by giving the Master our all."



Gloria and Tom Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, share a hymn with Mar-jean Patterson, executive director, state WMU.



Vic and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil, model Brazilian costumes. Vic wears the leather outfit of a cowboy, as the two lead a conference during a prayer breakfast. (That's a snakeskin on the wall.)



Jean Jacobs, retired missionary to Trinidad, greets friends, following a session in which she spoke, at the WMU convention.



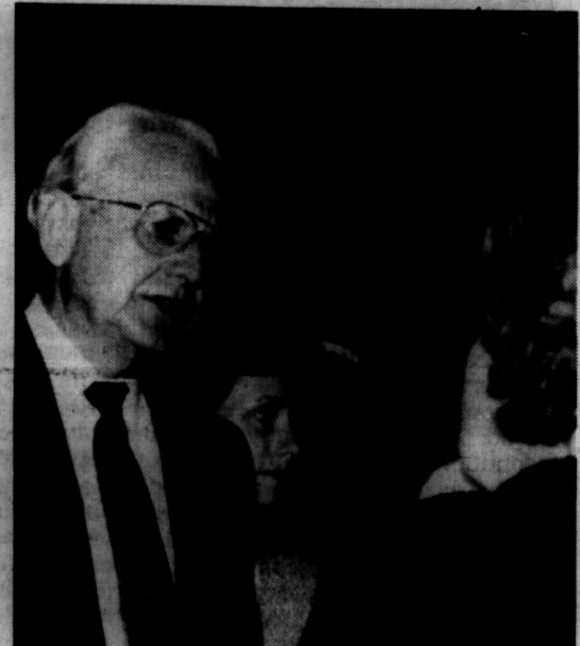
Libby Jones of Laurel presents a Vocal Celebration. At Salem Heights Church, her husband, Tullios Jones Jr., is minister of music and youth.



Joe Cates, mayor of Southaven, right, presents a proclamation of welcome to Wilda Fancher, state WMU president.



Anne and Don Dent, missionaries to Singapore who are to transfer to Indonesia, talk on the topic, "Find Us Faithful Through Our Homes."



James Smith greets Baptist women following his speech at the WMU convention in Southaven.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



A little south of Memphis

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union held its annual meeting last week the farthest north ever, I suppose. I slept (a little — between airplanes that went ZOOM-M-M) in a motel in Tennessee. From there, I drove six miles south to the Colonial Hills Church of Southaven, to meet with 800 or 900 other women.

Monday morning, when I left home, the day was warm, pure springtime, so I forgot my coat and raincoat. That night, at the close of the session, a thunderstorm was in full swing, and the rain was coming down in sheets. Women had been giving out programs in plastic bags. I confess I took two of their bags, one for my camera and one for my head. W. D. — attending his first WMU convention ever — ran ahead, umbrellaless and sackless.

Next day, without a coat, I fared better than four women on the Rankin County WMU Council. I heard they were driving a borrowed van on which the heater would not work. When they spied some snowflakes and sleet whirling about, they prepared to bundle up for their journey home. They bought socks, which they donned, and then put their high heels back on. They pulled on slacks, to warm their legs, but kept on their dresses over the slacks. They put on all the coats they had brought, and sweaters; then, in the van, some who had brought towels also wrapped up in them. They stopped often to buy hot coffee to warm their hands. Between times, each one kept warm by laughing at how funny all the others looked.

The Colonial Hills Church (Janice Hayes, WMU director) and the Nor-

thwest Association (Kay Hodge, associational WMU director), did a good job of welcome.

At the luncheon for parents of missionaries, I enjoyed sitting by Betty (Mrs. Gene) Dobbs of Philadelphia, an area coordinator, and Vic and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil. By my plate I found an exquisite lace-edged bookmark, decorated with needlepoint and embroidery, given as a keepsake of WMU Annual Meeting, 1989. Janice Hayes suggested that some memento be given; her sister, Kay Hodge, designed the bookmark. They and other Colonial Hills women made 300 bookmarks, with the theme, "Find Us Faithful," embroidered above the WMU emblem.

The offering during the convention was designated for the Second Century Fund of WMU, SBC, in honor of Earl and Marjorie Kelly. Marjean Patterson expressed appreciation to Dr. Kelly for his support of and cooperation with Mississippi WMU, during the years he has been executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She presented to Marjorie, from the WMU, a gift certificate for a stationary bicycle, so that she and her husband can keep in shape during their retirement years, beginning late this summer.

Marjean gave to Carolyn Weatherford, from the Mississippi WMU, a wedding present — a crystal pitcher. As most everyone knows by now, Carolyn is to be married later this year. She spoke at each of the four sessions of the convention. Since her husband-to-be, Joe, a preacher, is a

good cook, she said that after they are married, it will be fine with her for him to cook and her to preach.

In love and appreciation to Wilda Fancher, Marjean, for the state WMU, gave a pressed glass vase. Wilda presided, in her final year as state WMU president; at the close of the last session, the new president, Joan Tyler of Collins, described Wilda as having served "graciously and creatively." Wilda's husband, James, is pastor at First, Monticello. Joan's husband, Charles, is a doctor.

Keith Parks at the close left us with a lot to think about. (More about his speech on page 6). He told of an old woman to whom he preached when he was a missionary in Indonesia. In that hot land, the woman said, "Your words have cooled my heart." Also she added, "If your words are true, my whole life has been a mistake."

Whose mistake was it that this woman had never before heard of Jesus? Parks had wondered: "Was it my mistake that I never preached to her before? There are thousands to whom I have not preached, and I cannot preach to all of them. There are thousands of other Christians who never preached to her either. Is it their mistake? Let others share my burden."

And then he asked, "God, is it your mistake that she never heard? Don't you care?" In Exodus 3, he found God's answer: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry . . . ; I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them . . . I am sending you to bring my people out of Egypt."

Thursday, March 30, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Tim Young, left, and Philip Thurman take a break from work.

MKs will play soccer on summer mission team

By Anne W. McWilliams

Two Mississippi College students will play soccer with a Missionary Athletes International team in England and Bangladesh this summer. As missionary kids, the two grew up in Bangladesh. Tim Young, a sophomore, is the son of James and Guinevere Young. Philip Thurman, a senior, is a son of Tom and Gloria Thurman. Since both speak Bengali, they will also help as interpreters.

Their tour will begin May 21 with four days in England, where their ministry will center on prison teams, schools, and other soccer clubs. Then they will spend a little more than two weeks in Bangladesh, as the first Christian soccer team from America to play and also share the gospel in that country. They will play professional and amateur teams in Dhaka and other cities, and probably will play the national soccer team.

Though in May of 1988 the government declared Bangladesh an official Islamic state, the players plan to give out tracts which will offer an invitation to enroll in Bible correspondence courses. In Bangladesh they will work with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism and with Southern Baptist missionaries.

Missionary Athletes International, founded in 1983 by Tim Conrad, is an interdenominational athletic ministry that uses the sport of soccer to reach people for Jesus Christ. It began as a model in Los Angeles. It has grown into a ministry that is using camps, international tours, professional soccer outreach, inner city ministry, local soccer clubs, and assembly programs and clinics. M.A.I. plans to base a permanent team in England in 1990. An M.A.I. news release states that in England Muslims outnumber Methodists; and that there is a new mosque every ten days.

Last summer, Philip went with an M.A.I. soccer team to Hungary,

Austria, and England. After the games, he said, they would play their guitars and sing, and then have a time of sharing testimonies. In Germany and Austria, there were ten interpreters who spoke English. In Hungary, there were no interpreters. However, a Moslem player and a couple of other guys from Mozambique could speak English well. Since Philip had grown up with Moslems in Bangladesh, he said, "This gave me a unique opportunity to share with them about Jesus."

For this trip, Tim is raising his own financial support of \$2,900. He said, "It has always been a dream of mine to return to Bangladesh and glorify God through the talents that he has given me. This is an excellent opportunity for me to share Christ with the Bengalis with whom I grew up. This soccer ministry may touch someone whose life revolves around soccer. If just one person could see Christ through me on the soccer field, then my entire trip would be worth it."

He added that he knows such an endeavor cannot be accomplished without prayer. He said, "I know that prayer has helped my family through many troubled times and I have seen prayer work. Without prayer support Mom and Dad could not have made it through the many heartaches that come from working among 105 million lost Bengalis. Please pray that God will prepare the hearts of the many different people that I will meet during this trip."

Both Philip and Tim are members of First Church, Jackson, and work part time at the church's Family Life Center. Tim's parents will be coming to Mississippi on furlough in June, so he and they will return to the U.S. together. Philip's parents, on furlough now, will return to Bangladesh in early June; Philip plans to stay with them in Bangladesh until time for his school to open in August.

Letters to the editor

Manner speaks volumes

Editor:
A time of massive debts and fiscal constraints makes many different types of cuts necessary. The manner in which these cuts are made speaks volumes about an institution.

William Carey College has consistently demonstrated an insensitivity to the needs of students, last year raising tuition 16 percent in the middle of the school year and this year assessing a security fee in the middle of the school year.

At the January 26 meeting of the Carey Board of Trustees, I asked the chairman if I could present a set of proposals and a petition from a group of students. He said he would pass them out to the trustees. I asked if I could come in for one minute in case anyone had a question. He replied "Well, I guess we would have sixty seconds but what we have is more important than what you have." He did not even pass out the proposals as he had promised.

Now scholarships are being cut. Students already at Carey anticipated continuing to receive their scholarships as long as they continued to qualify; and, as a matter of honor, this should have been the case. Even worse, most students found out that their scholarships had been cut through a cold, impersonal memo. Students at a Christian school deserve better than this.

Also, faculty members have now

been cut. Some of these had several years of service with Carey. The saddest part of this is that they were notified by a one-line letter which simply stated that their contract had not been renewed. There was no explanation, no sense of sadness at having to take this action, and no acknowledgement of their service to Carey. Faculty at a Christian school deserve better than this.

A school does not deserve to call itself Christian unless it treats its faculty and students as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jeff Rimes
Pascagoula

Thanks for influence

Editor:

William Penn Davis came into my life in 1963. He came quietly but forcefully. He came with humor and holiness. He modeled human relations and humility. He dared to think and act redemptively. He was a Christian to me — open to others, vulnerable, human, and authentic.

I am more because he came. I am more human, more loving, more genuine, and more in touch with all of my being. I am thankful for his walking beside me for 2½ decades. I know earth wasn't ready for all of his ideas, but I am certain heaven is receptive.

Richard Brogan
Clinton

Thanks for review

Editor:

Just a brief note to express my appreciation for the recent review of my book, *Spiritual Nuggets*, in the Baptist Record. This book was several years in the making and is published at considerable expense. Since I am unknown to the general public, any publicity is genuinely appreciated. My sincere thanks.

Ryburn T. Stancil
Rt. 4, Box 64
Brookhaven

Live in infamy

Editor:

In Jesus' prayer, found in John 17, he said, "... that they may all be one; even as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe..." This passage says to me that one of the reasons for Christian unity is to enhance our ability to reach a lost world. It seems obvious to me that when Christians are not unified they cause disbelief among the lost of the world. The cost of our disunity within our convention is great.

Those who have sown discord, distrust, and division in the Southern Baptist Convention with power politics and secret meetings will live in infamy as the ones who crippled the witness of our convention.

Bert Breland, pastor
North Greenwood Church
Greenwood

Mississippi Baptist activities

- April 3 Children and Conversion Seminar; FBC, Southaven; 7-9:30 p.m. (SS/EVAN)
- April 6 New Staff Orientation and Associational Staff Meeting; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (MBCB & PD)
- April 7-8 "Three Events in One — Drama & Rec;" Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 5 p.m., 7th-3 p.m., 8th (CT)



Father Rivard (Heath Joiner) comforts a grieving parishioner (Kim Hood) while Sister Rita (Donna Smith) looks on in Blue Mountain College's production of "The Runner Stumbles" opening in early April.

Blue Mountain to present play, "The Runner Stumbles"

"Gentle Jesus. God. Am I in Your image? God, make me strong. I doubt. I doubt everything. They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength... I am waiting, God. I have always waited." So cries the tired and confused clergyman in Milan Stitt's convicting play, "The Runner Stumbles." The play is the final production in the theatre season at Blue Mountain College.

Based upon an actual account of a nun found murdered in a backwoods Michigan town at the turn of the century, playwright Stitt's telling of the tale follows the experiences that lead up to the killing as seen through the eyes of the accused, Father Rivard, the murdered nun's priest.

Although "The Runner Stumbles" is a thrilling "whodunnit" tale of deception and intrigue, its dramatic power

rests in the questions the play asks about faith in God. "Rivard's 'angry God' beliefs are put to the test by Sister Rita's personal, abiding faith," says Cliff Thompson, assistant professor of speech and drama, and director of the production. "To me, the play is about faith... it asks the question, 'What is God truly like?' That's a question all Christians grapple with."

The production will open on the Blue Mountain campus April 6 and run through April 8 with two performances: a matinee at 2 p.m. and evening performance at 8. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students 12 and under. They may be reserved by calling 601/685-4771. Special rates are available for church groups. For more information, contact Cliff Thompson at Blue Mountain College.

Three senior adult enrichment programs are set for April 13

"Senior Adults Reaching Senior Adults" will be the theme of the April 13 meetings at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; First Church, Yazoo City, and Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian. Registration for the sessions begins at 9:30 a.m. and adjournment by 2:30 p.m. Lunch, covered by the pre-registration fee, is to be served at the church.

Among the program personalities at Woodland Hills will be Bill Fuller, pastor; Lois Renfrow, Alta Woods; Guy Henderson, director of evangelism, MBCB; Bill Burke, Raymond Road Church, Jackson; J. Clark Hensley, senior adult consultant, MBCB; and Ethel McKeithen, Parkway Church, Jackson. Joe Chapman of Ridgecrest Church in Jackson, will direct the fellowship choir in special music.

To register for the Woodland Hills meeting send \$5.00 by April 11 to Hinds-Madison Association Office, Box 4686, Jackson, MS 39296.

M. J. Harden, area coordinator for the Meridian meeting, has enlisted Kermit Rasco, Highland; Oscar Kent, New Hope, Jack Stack and Mary Vick of Poplar Springs Drive; and M. L. Flint, First Church, to bring messages

or testimonies. Franklin Denham will direct the Senior Adult Choir of Highland in special music. The Lamplighters Choral Group of Meridian High School will entertain during lunch.

Reservations may be made by sending \$5 per person before April 10 to M. J. Harden, 3640 48th Street, Meridian, MS 39305.

Cortez Hutchinson Jr., area coordinator, asks that reservations for the First Church, Yazoo City meeting be sent with \$3 to the church, Box 780, Yazoo City, MS 39194 by April 7.

Among program resource people and topics for the meeting are: "Biblical Basis for Outreach," James F. Yates, First Church, Yazoo City; "Senior Adult Renewal and Revival," director of missions Howard Smith; "Evangelistic Hands," Levon Moore, Kosciusko; "Senior Adults in Ministry," Paul Lee, Bowmar Avenue, Vicksburg; and "Senior Adults Witnessing to Senior Adults," Guy Henderson.

A total of 508 senior adults attended the Area 7, 8, 9 meeting March 14. Areas 5 and 6 are composed of 16 associations throughout the central part of the state.

Ag missions elects Philpot as president

Nelson Philpot, professor and resident director of Louisiana State University's Hill Farm Research Station, Houma, La., was elected president of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Limited, during its recent annual meeting at Immanuel Church, Greenwood.

Philpot, of First Church, Houma, La., serves as deacon and Sunday School director, and has been active in Ag-missions almost since its inception nearly 20 years ago. His brother, Jim Philpot, was an agricultural missionary to Mexico before his untimely death after being shot on the streets of Mexico City in November 1985.

In addition to Philpot, 21 directors from six states — Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas and Missouri — were elected at the meeting. Speakers included Albert Sutton, agricultural missionary from Brazil, who told about his "Living Water" project. During his slide presentation, Sutton said, "Third World countries are just waiting for us to come and help them."

Also appearing on the program was Upper Volta citizen, agriculturist and part-time pastor, Henri Ye'. Mr. Ye' is nearing completion of advanced studies at both Auburn and Duke Universities. Mr. Ye' said, "While we have the Peace Corps, I would like to have Christians more involved. I believe that only Christians can give the kind of hope our country needs."

Agricultural Missions Foundation, Limited, is an independent, non-profit corporation dedicated to involving its members in ag-missions and helping to provide assistance to agricultural missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board. The organization was established in 1970 under the direction of the late Owen Cooper. According to board chairman Gene Triggs, Agricultural Missions expects to continue to provide a vehicle through which interested persons and other fellowships can work with missionaries in Third World countries.

Those interested in becoming involved should contact Agricultural Missions Foundation, Limited, P. O. Box 388, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

BMC BSU plans youth ministries meet

The Baptist Student Union at Blue Mountain College is sponsoring its second annual youth ministries seminar on April 22.

Leading the conference for youth ministers will be Jeff Powell, minister to singles at First Church, Starkville. The youths at the conference will be led by Greg Smith of Calvary Church, Tupelo; Jeff Ginn of First Church, West Memphis, Ark.; and Mike Priest of First Church, Ripley.

The day will begin with a 9:30 a.m. registration in the student center.

The day will close with a concert by Theresa Mendenhall who is with the booking agency of Sandi Patti.

The cost is \$10 for youth ministers and \$3 for each youth. The cost to attend the concert only is \$3.

To pre-register and for more information write "Priority Youth" Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS 38610 or phone 685-4161. Tracy Simmons is BSU director.



Philpot

Staff changes

Kittiwake Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Dan Bradley as pastor.

Handsboro Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Richard Bradley as pastor. He is moving from Brookhaven. He formerly served First Church, Pass Christian, and Shoreline Park Church, Bay St. Louis.

Mike Vick has been named as associate pastor and interim pastor at Briarwood Church, Meridian.

Billy Floyd has become the new pastor of Skene Church in Bolivar County. He moved from Good Hope Church in Panola Association, where he served 6½ years.

He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. He and his family moved on church field Feb. 27. Sunday night, March 5, the church honored them with a fellowship meal and pounding.

New Hope Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Mike Hagen as minister of music and youth.

Keith Powell, a native of Grenada, has assumed the pastorate of Liberty Church, Carrollton, effective Dec. 22, 1988. He moved to Liberty Church after serving two churches in Copiah-Lincoln Association. Powell plans to graduate from Mississippi College.

Steve Wilkinson is serving as interim pastor at Waveland First Church.

Johnston's Station Church, Summit, has called Riley Hinton as pastor, effective April 1. Hinton replaces Victor Walsh who has been interim pastor from Feb. 15 until April 1.

Senior adult corner

First Church, Gulfport, hosted a four day Senior Adult January Bible Study program Feb. 27-March 2. Grady C. Cothen, retired president of Baptist Sunday School Board, brought the daily devotional followed by the January Bible Study, "Invitation to Life — the Gospel of John." Teacher for these sessions were Dean Register, pastor, First, Gulfport; Frank Gunn, psator, First Biloxi; Nathan Barber, pastor, First, Bay St. Louis; and Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association. The 71 early birds were guests of a breakfast served by the host church on Thursday morning. Roger Alewine, minister to single adults and are senior adult consultant led in planning the event.

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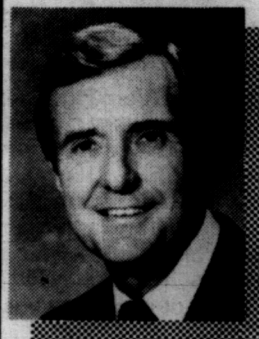
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MBB

Just for the Record

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, March 30, 1989



Briarwood Church, Meridian, held ground breaking on March 12 for a \$200,000 multi-purpose Family Life Building. Pictured, left to right, are Unk Jones, Billy Britt, Ray Gipson,

Jim Taylor, Joe Odom, Billy Smith, Lyle Fulton, Cecil Trawick, Doyle McKee, Harold Hayes, contractor, Judge Mike Watkins, Mike Vick, associate pastor, and Tom Wood, pastor.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, reached and exceeded its record goal of \$12,000 with \$12,016.07 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Mrs. Jean Bragg is WMU director; and Roy T. Myers is pastor.

Dedication services for the new sanctuary at Johns Church, Florence, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. Troy Grubbs is pastor.

Bond Church, formerly New Hope Church, Philadelphia, will have its sesquicentennial celebration, April 22 and 23. On Saturday, 7 p.m., there will be a gospel singing featuring The Believers and Sonrise. Sunday, worship service at 11 a.m. with Doug Chatham, Conyers, Ga., guest speaker. Lunch will be served following service. Afternoon service will include special singing, former pastors speaking, and reading of the church history.

History meeting to focus on Baptists in America

NASHVILLE, TN — "Baptists in America: 175 Years of National Organization" is the theme of the April 1989 annual meeting of the Historical Commission, SBC, and Southern Baptist Historical Society.

According to Lynn E. May, Jr., commission executive director, "1989 is a pivotal anniversary for Baptists. Since forming their first national body in 1814, Baptists in America, through several national conventions, have made a major impact on the shape of American religion and life."

Participants will meet at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, on April 25-26. Registration and hotel information can be obtained by contacting the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203. Or call (615) 244-0344.

Speakers include B. Gray Allison, president and professor of evangelism, Mid-America Seminary; William H. Brackney, vice-president and dean, Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.; Claude L. Howe Jr., chairman of the Theological and Historical Studies Division and professor of church history, New Orleans Seminary; William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor, Freemason Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.; H. Leon McBeth, professor of church history, Southwestern Theological Seminary; and Arthur L. Walker, Jr., executive director, Education Commission, SBC, Nashville.

Papers presented at the meeting will be published in the July 1989 issue of Baptist History and Heritage, quarterly journal of the Historical Commission, SBC.

Revival dates

East Mt. Zion, Baldwyn: April 2-7; Jerry Massey, evangelist, First, Amory; Joe Blassingame, music; services, 7 p.m.; Ed Campbell, pastor.

Macedonia, Meridian: April 7-9; services, 7 nightly, and 11 a.m., Sunday morning; Tommy Anderson, Pearl, evangelist; Danny Moss, pastor.

Oak Grove (Yazoo): April 2-5; homecoming on April 2, with 11 a.m. service, dinner on the grounds, afternoon song service, and no night service; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, pastor, East End Church, Columbus, preaching; Bill Martin, Oak Grove, song leader; David Donnell, pastor.

Main Street, Goodman: April 9-13; services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kermit McGregor Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, evangelist; Janet Simpson, choir director at Holmes Community College, music; Ray Allen, pastor.

Calvary, Silver Creek: April 2-7; Ben Carlisle, Pascagoula, evangelist; Rick West, First, Bowling Green, Fla. music; Mike Sutton, pastor.

Single adults plan retreat at Oxford

More than 200 single adults are expected at First Church, Oxford for the spring retreat April 14, 7 p.m. through April 15, 4 p.m. according to Joe Armour, area coordinator, and minister of single adults, FBC, Tupelo.

"Caring" will be the theme for sessions with principal program personalities being Ann Smith, Asheville, N.C. national single adult consultant, and Russ Barksdale, minister to singles, First Church, Jackson. Special music renditions will be given by groups from Oxford and Tupelo.

The registration fee of \$8 should be sent before April 11 to Joe Armour, FBC, Tupelo, Jefferson at Church Streets, Tupelo, MS 38801. Fee includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Mike Jones, minister of education, heads the local arrangements committee.

One thing about wild oats, sowing them is not confined to any one season of the year.



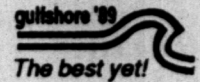
Members of Lynn Ray Road Church of Petal, recently celebrated its first anniversary with lunch. Over one hundred were in attendance. Pastors, Emmett Boone (right) and Bill Partridge (left) cut the cake. Lynn Ray Road is in the process of building a \$350,000 auditorium with classrooms, fellowship hall, and offices and plan to be in it by May, 1989.

Homecomings

Plainway, Laurel: April 2; Harold Ishee, former pastor, 1950-1985, message; note burning during morning worship service; dinner on the grounds following service; Kent W. Megehee, pastor.

Utica, Utica: April 30; homecoming and 160th anniversary; W. T. Dixon, former pastor, speaker; dinner in family life center; John Ed Snell, pastor.

Church Training Leadership



How many people have you heard testify to the fact that they got their start in Christian service through Church Training? It use to be that almost every church worker and church staff member made this claim. That no longer seems to be true.

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Benny Jackson, former pastor, Smithdale Church, Amite County, begins his 15th year in full-time vocational evangelism. He is a graduate of Oxford High School, Oxford, Ala., Howard College (Samford University) Birmingham, and New Orleans Seminary. His address is 2873 Belgrave Dr., Germantown, TN 38138 (Memphis) and phone number 901-757-2829.



Lexie Church, Walthall County, recently held its adult Valentine party with the theme "God's Love Bears All Things." Mac Conerly was crowned king and Lyn Hill was crowned queen. Wendell Frazier and David Watson of Tylertown Church entertained.

Names in the news

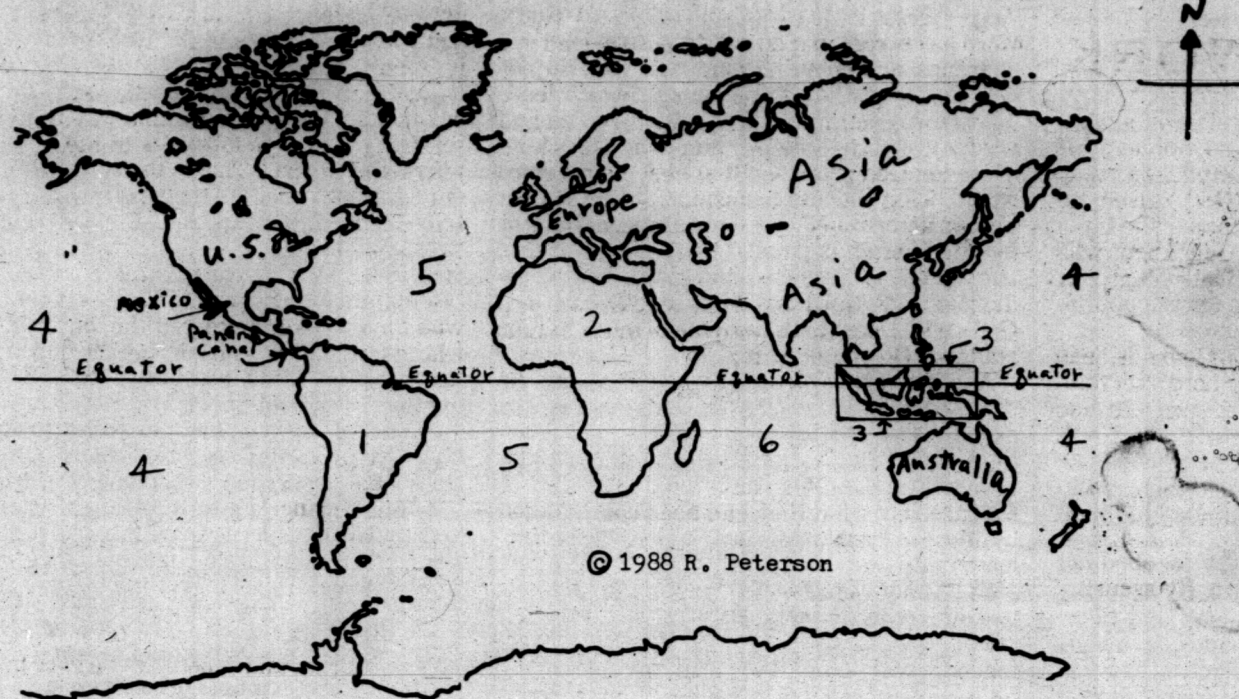
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CHILDREN'S PAGE



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Map Quiz

By Ralph Peterson

The equator separates the northern and southern hemispheres of the globe. On the average, the area along the equator receives more sunlight than any other geographical area on the earth. Therefore, this area has a tropical climate with every warm temperatures. Can you identify the numbered areas above?

1. This continent lies to the south of the U.S., Mexico, and the Panama Canal. Some of the countries of this continent which lie along the equator are Ecuador, Columbia, and Brazil.
2. This continent was formerly called the "dark continent." The equator crosses the Congo River, as well as the countries of Zaire and Kenya.

3. This country in Southeast Asia is made up of a group of islands including Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Celebes, and West New Guinea.
4. This is the largest ocean in the world. It was first crossed by the Spanish explorer, Magellan, in 1521.
5. This is the second largest ocean in the world. The early European explorers had to cross it to get to the New World.
6. This is the world's third largest ocean.

Answers:

1. South America
2. Africa
3. Indonesia
4. Pacific Ocean
5. Atlantic Ocean
6. Indian Ocean

Were boots made for walking?

By Lucille Bailey

Back in 1959 or 1960, Nancy Sinatra made famous the song, "These Boots Were Made For Walking." Now the story behind the song was a sad one,

and did not tell anyone about how the boots were made. As Paul Harvey would say, "Now Here is the Rest of the Story." Boots were first made to protect a person's feet from rough stones, hot sand, and cold weather. The earliest boots were made by joining the bottom of a leg covering with the sole of a sandal.

In the early days boots showed rank or wealth of the wearer. High rank was shown by long pointed toes and different kinds of decorations. One boot had a pointed toe so long that a chain had to be used to hold it up so the wearer could walk.

There are more than 200 steps for making a single boot today. The factory making the boots is usually divided into eight departments. These departments are the cutting room, stitching room, sole-leather room, lasting room, bottoming room, making room, finishing room, and treeing and packing room.

The first American shoemaker was Thomas Beard, who came to Salem, Mass., in 1629. Now it is possible for a person to buy any color of boots they want. (We should keep in mind that Jesus loves all the children — "Red or yellow, black or white, they are precious in his sight.")

You can also buy various types of leather boots. Some leather is rough and some is smooth (and we need to tell everyone, that regardless of what they have done in their past life, they can be assured that Jesus will

welcome them in his plan of salvation.)

Boots should be chosen for shape and fit.

Do you remember that I mentioned that there were a total of 200 steps in making a pair of boots? Do you know that there is only one step in becoming a Christian? All we have to do is "Believe on the Lord, and we shall be saved" . . . Do you see how easy Jesus made it for us to be a follower of his? Now if boots are made for walking, then we should walk on down the aisle when the pastor gives the invitation and we feel the tugging of the Holy Spirit.

The next time you put on your boots, take a minute to thank Jesus that he did not list 200 things to do to become a Christian. Join me in repeating John 3:16 . . .

Lucille Bailey leads children's church at State Line.

Lucille Bailey of State Line, who has been writing stories for the Children's Page, recently became the first woman to receive the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award. She has been clerk for the Wayne County Baptist Association for 26 years. She writes a column for The Wayne County News called the "White Rabbit." In her church at State Line, she is an adult Sunday School teacher, and also teaches in Children's Church. She was a school teacher before she retired in 1984.

A Bible quiz

I, Jud E. Sherlock, was summoned to solve the mystery of the jam escaping from the pots at the Smith Co. The weather being cold, I chose a warm coat, and the bell on my fez rattled as I hurried over. The president, Joe L. Smith, awaited me and blustered, "This is a terrible Smith Co. loss," I answered, "Let's have the facts." "See for yourself," he said.

I checked, Hmmm. The brew steamed. It was lukewarm. Vice president John Smith walked past with his pet ermine. Speaking suddenly he called, "You shouldn't be working on this solo. Monday is always a bad day here." I scratched the chronic lesion on my head. This job was going to be tough all right. I changed position because standing had my legs numb. Erstwhile, my gaze shifted to a mat. The writing said, "Ban a human!" I must mark this down. I mused.

Mr. Smith was nervous at best. He rustled papers in a ruthless way. "Well, do you plan to stand there and revel at Ionic architecture all day?" he sarcastically asked. With a straight face I retorted, "No, I plan to lament at ion spectrogram all year! Judge shrewdly! We need time to study the situation."

Suddenly, he shouted, "What a fool I am — ostrich with my head stuck in the sand! I forgot that it uses sugar. Mr. Sherlock, come into my office and I will explain the mystery."

"Philip, hi. Lemonade for Mr. Sherlock, please," he ordered his steward. Philip asked, "Would you prefer coffee?" "Yes, coffee, Philip," I answered. Mr. Smith explained everything as we sat at a table on a beautiful white shag. Gaily we brunch on eggs and ham a la Chicago.

— by Verie Sandborg

In the above story there are 31 books of the Bible. Find them!

Pen Pal Club

"Hi!!"

My name is Bethany Allred. I'm 13 years old and in the 7th grade. I go to the Sunflower Baptist Church. I would love new pals to write me. I promise to write all. I'll also try to send a picture of myself. I hope to hear from you soon. Please write — Rt. 1, Box 50, Sunflower, MS 38778.

Sincerely,
Bethany

Dear Baptist Record,

I would like to have a pen pal. I am 8 and have blonde hair and green eyes. I go to First Baptist Church in Pascagoula. My address is 1207 Driftwood Rd., Pascagoula, Miss. 39567.

Sincerely,
Katherine L. Willis

My God is always there

My God is always there,
And he will always care.
He is my leader,
And I am the needer.
He watches over me at night,
He never lets me out of sight.
I never have to fear;
My God is always near.

—Jennifer Carpenter
Petal

GAs of County Line Church, Union, held a "Hawaiian Luau" during their study of Hawaii in January and invited the RAs and Mission Friends of the church. Those attending were Marley Smith, Jennifer and Michele Winstead, Amanda Peacock, Rachel Fulton, Daniel Fulton, Jeremy and Misty Keene, Nick Smith, and Allison Davis.



GAs at Hardy Church, Grenada, during the month of January studied missions in Hawaii. As part of their study, they celebrated the last monthly meeting with a "Luau." They dressed for the occasion by wearing their mu-mus and leis. The food served was traditional Hawaiian food.

GAs, left to right, are Stephanie Roberts, Ashley Horne, Audrey Horne, and Melissa Roberts.

Leaders are Diane Horne and Charlotte Pollan.



Follow the leader who follows God

By Greg Martin
Joshua 1:1-18

There is a great need for good, strong, courageous, honest leaders. This void needs to be met in many segments of life. We hear of athletes on drugs and politicians acting immorally. We listen to business people say, "If we could just get the right manager in that store, we could turn a profit." The local gridiron club will complain, "If we could find the right coach, we could produce a winning team." Leadership is vital to any organization's health and stability. This is no less true for the Church of Jesus Christ.

The first chapter of Joshua records some principles we need to learn concerning spiritual leadership. As believers we are to follow spiritual leaders provided by God who are faithful to God and to his purpose for his people.

One of the first truths we can learn is that God does provide leaders for his people as new generations arise (verse 2). Our text records the events after the 30-day mourning period for the death of Moses. He was God's fearless leader. He had brought the people of God to the threshold of the Promised Land, but was not

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able to take the children of Israel into Canaan. No doubt, there were some who wondered if God's purpose would be accomplished since Moses was gone. The Lord God raised up Joshua to lead the people to conquer the land. There was no need to fear. God knew who Moses' successor would be. Ephesians 4:11 reminds us that God's leaders for the church are God's gifts to the church.

Another principle that we can learn is seen in the references to Moses as the Lord's servant. Five times Moses is referred to this way. Joshua is also called a servant (verse 1). In God's economy, before a person can be a leader he must be a servant. Jesus affirmed this in Matthew 23:11, "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

God's promise to be faithful to obedient leaders can be seen in verses 7-9. By assuring them of his presence with them, God gives spiritual leaders the strength, and encouragement they need for the task to which he has called them. God is the equipper of every servant for divine tasks. I heard a man once say, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you." This is no less true for leaders.

God's leaders are called to be faithful to his

Word (verses 7-8). Those who would say God's Word has errors in it do not deserve to lead our churches or denomination. Men who do not practice God's Word are unqualified to lead. Joshua was commanded to obey the word and meditate on it in order for him to be God's kind of leader. God promised that obeying his word would bring success to Joshua. Success is not always determined by material possessions or health. It often is gauged by the favor of God in one's life. Being successful means being obedient to God's word that never leads away from God's will. Does God's word mean much to your leaders? Do you obey it?

Another principle for leadership can be discovered in verses 12-13a. Faithful leaders guide in a way that respects the direction given by other faithful leaders. Joshua reminded the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh of what they had been commanded by Moses. Joshua was not jealous of Moses' leadership. He was not threatened by the people's love for their former leader. Pity the new pastor who continually picks at his predecessor's work. A good Sunday School teacher will avoid the trap of comparing himself with last year's teacher. A good leader is secure in who he is. As evidence of his security, he will not be afraid to remind his followers of the accomplishments of his predecessor. He will learn to use past victories to his advantage. Another truth from the passage addresses the

ones being led. Believers are to be followers of godly leaders (verses 16-17). We are not to blindly follow anyone who is a self-proclaimed leader. Only spiritual shepherds are worthy of our pledge. Paul stated it this way in I Corinthians 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." That is the holy criteria for our submissiveness to leaders. In verse 17, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh pledged to obey Joshua, even as they did Moses. Hebrews 13:7 gives us a similar admonition, "Remember them which have rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." It is impossible for any leader to effectively lead unless the people are willing to be submissive. Are you willing to be led? Could your leaders be more effective if they knew of your support?

A final principle is implied in verse 17. Spiritual leaders deserve our prayers. Believers should pray for their spiritual leaders that God would be with them and guide them. Are you praying? It will help keep you from complaining.

Our churches and denomination have been effective because of faithful, godly leaders and faithful, godly church members who follow leaders who follow God. I am committed to continue the tradition. I hope you will be, too.

Martin is pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

The beginning of Paul's mission to the Gentiles

By Bert Breland
Acts 13:1-48

Acts chapter 13 marks the beginning of what has become known as Paul's first missionary journey. It has been commonly accepted that



Breland

there were three missionary journeys recorded in the book of Acts. However, it seems unlikely that Luke's intention was to give us an account of all of Paul's missionary work. Paul was involved in other missionary activity which he mentions in his letters to Rome and Galatia that Luke does not mention in Acts. Luke has obviously selected certain experiences from Paul's missionary work and hasn't tried to be exhaustive.

Chapter 13 opens with a listing of the prophets and teachers who were ministering in the church at Antioch. Paul and Barnabas are listed among these and are the only ones that we recognize. The others are possibly the men

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that were mentioned in Acts 11:20 as the ones who opened the gospel to the Greeks in Antioch. If so, it is appropriate that they were present at the time when God "set apart" Paul and Barnabas as missionaries to the Gentiles.

It is not clear from this passage if this occurred while the whole church was worshipping, or if it was just the five prophet/teachers. This also raises the question of who it was that laid hands on them and sent them out. The grammar seems to indicate that it was the other prophet/teachers, but our understanding of the church at Antioch and the tradition of missionaries being sent out by congregations would lead us to believe that they were sent out by the church, and not just its leadership.

The first stop on their missionary journey was the island of Cyprus. This was not a pioneer mission field. We know that Christianity was already present on Cyprus. Barnabas and other

unnamed disciples were from Cyprus. In fact the revival in Antioch had been fueled in part by disciples from Cyprus. Luke mentions in passing that they went to the synagogues when they first arrived, but his main interest seems to be in Paul's encounter with the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Sergius Paulus' ready acceptance of Paul and Barnabas and his apparent conversion indicates that the door for missions was wide open. There has been some debate about Sergius Paulus' so called "belief." Some have argued that the only thing he really believed was that Paul had superior powers over his religious magician, Elymas. In any event, the door was open for the gospel to be preached unhindered in Cyprus.

Paul and Barnabas set sail from Cyprus on their way to Antioch of Pisidia. While at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch Paul preached a sermon to the people in which he claimed that Jesus is the Christ. The response of the people was that they wanted him to come back the next Sabbath and preach on the same subject again. Paul's audience on his first visit were Jews, proselyte-Jews, and God-fearers who were stu-

dying to be Jews.

It is interesting to note that when Paul came back the next week to preach, "nearly the whole city" turned out, which meant that Gentiles were present. It was only then that the Jews had a sudden change of heart and began to dispute what he was saying. They had no problem with Paul's message until they realized that the Gentiles were there to hear it, and Paul was not excluding them. They were filled with jealousy and rage, not because of what Paul was saying, but because they didn't want the Gentiles included in the service or the gospel. Their negative reaction provoked a strong response from Paul. He concluded that they had excluded themselves from the gospel by their desire to exclude the Gentiles. He also proclaimed that from this point he would take the gospel to the Gentiles, and he quoted Isaiah 49:6 as his justification for doing so. When the Gentiles present heard this, they began to rejoice. The gospel is finally open to all people and the Gentiles have a champion in the Apostle Paul.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Paul's example: "To live is Christ"

By Gary G. Berry
Philippians 1:12-26

The most worthy goal of the Christian life is to serve Christ without reservation and thereby give glory to God. The apostle Paul provides



Berry

from his experience a powerful example of how God uses the Christian whose primary commitment in life is to magnify Christ. Every believer can live that kind of life.

Paul's imprisonment probably created problems for his fellow Christians. No doubt they were wondering what would happen to the gospel if Paul were to be executed. There may have been a prevailing sentiment of sympathy for Paul. "Poor Paul," they could have been thinking (verse 12).

That was not what this Christ-filled man was thinking, however. He understood that his imprisonment was positive (verses 12-14). He understood that the things which were happening to him were being used by God to remove the impediments and obstacles to the spreading of the gospel. The roadblocks erected by Satan

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were becoming stepping-stones in God's purpose to send the gospel to all men. Even the guards who stood over Paul were hearing the gospel. In fact, the gospel and Paul's imprisonment were becoming the "talk of the palace".

In addition, many of the brothers in Christ had received more confidence as a result of Paul's example. Many believers were witnessing with greater boldness.

Paul had no intention of throwing a "pity-party" for himself. His example is urgently needed in the church today. Many believers are suffering adversity and living under deplorable circumstances. No matter how tough the situation or how intense the suffering becomes, Christians need to look upon their circumstances as opportunities to witness to the salvation and strength which comes from Jesus.

Jim had a physical deformity that made his movements very difficult. He could not speak very clearly, and his walk was clearly that of a cripple. One night as we went into a popular

hamburger hangout, a group of boys laughed at him because of his deformity. He was accustomed to being laughed at, but the Lord enabled him to deal with this cruel form of harassment. After a few moments he walked over to the boys and said in his stammering way, "I know you're laughing at me, but I love you, and Jesus loves you." Within a few minutes, he had led each one of the boys to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

Rather than despairing, why not give Christ complete control of the circumstances and difficulties of your life? Paul was excited about what God was doing as a result of his imprisonment (verses 15-18). As the gospel was being spread, some were doing it with impure motives, but the purity of the gospel was being shared nevertheless. Prayers were being answered (verses 19-20). It was Paul's firm confidence that the spread of the gospel and the magnification of Christ was the evidence of the Holy Spirit at work as a result of praying people.

How can one have such an outlook on life? Is it unrealistic to live like that? The goal of Paul's life was to be and do all Christ wanted (verse 21). Every Christian today has the same Lord. "The Problem," as someone observed, "is that

although every believer has Christ; Christ does not have all of every believer." When submission to the Lordship of Christ is practiced by disciples of any generation, the result is a dramatically altered purpose for living. When one decides that "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain," all the pressure is off. Life becomes meaningful, even in difficult situations.

Paul was even ready to face death (verses 21-26). He was ready to "depart" or "to break camp" and move on to be with Christ. That was his strong desire on the one hand. On the other hand, he saw the need of the Philippians for his continued ministry. The former possibility meant he would be with Jesus forever; the latter meant that the Philippians would continue to grow in joy and faith (verse 27).

The powerful truths of this text challenge Christians to give themselves without reservation to Christ; to offer their lives for his service at all personal costs. "But, what if that brings suffering and deprivation rather than deliverance?" someone will ask. Paul would say: "You may die; so what! You're going to heaven to be with Jesus, and that 'ain't' bad!"

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

"Flexibility is the key" say student directors

By Wayne Vandiver

BSU directors for years now have been sharing with their students the importance of being flexible. In fact, the idea of being flexible is almost "drilled" into the minds of BSU summer missionaries preparing to serve 10 weeks on their various fields of ministry.

Recently, Joe Cobb and Elizabeth Thurmond, directors at Northeast Mississippi Community College BSU; Wayne Vandiver, director at Itawamba Community College BSU; and some of their students had the opportunity to practice what they preach. These BSUs did a cooperative effort mission trip to Flomaton, Ala., during their Christmas break. The job called for clearing some trees and brush, painting and repair work at a mission

church, and leading in various programs for youths and children.

The group arrived on Dec. 26, at 3 p.m. Cobb tried to call the project coordinator, but could not reach him. The directors decided to travel on in to town to find the coordinator's office. They found it, and to their surprise, the door was unlocked. They went in and proceeded to call anyone and everyone they could catch at home. This went on for two-and-a-half hours. The group then went to supper; and when they returned, the designated caller finally got the secretary of the project coordinator. But she did not know anything about where the coordinator was or the arrangements for the group. The directors decided to go to Pensacola, Fla., to spend the night.

They told the secretary that the group would be back Tuesday morning ready to work.

When they arrived the next morning, the project coordinator still could not be found. As the group waited, a BSUer from the University of Kentucky came by and said that he was with a mission team that was already on the job site, doing the work the Mississippi team was supposed to do. After examining the site, the directors found that there was not enough work for both teams to do. The Kentucky team had eight members, while the Mississippi team had 16 members.

It would seem that the only two things that could be done would be to help the Kentucky team make a two-day project of it or just to load up and go home. Instead Vandiver had heard of another project at the Alabama Baptist Children's Home in Mobile, Ala., from his mother-in-law who works there. By 1 p.m. that day, the group was working on a two-story house in Mobile.

The house needed painting inside and out. There was also a major puttying job to be done on the windows. The group completed the job on Dec. 30. The house would be used for mentally retarded boys. After the group returned to Mississippi, Paul Miller, director of the children's home in Mobile, sent a thank-you note to Vandiver. There is nothing unusual about this, except that he sent another thank-you note a week later! He explained that he had not seen the house when he wrote the first note. After seeing the completed project, he wrote the second note to say it was the best job he had ever seen done by a volunteer group.



These students from Northeast Itawamba Community Colleges wound up in a different place from where they had planned to minister. From left they are (guys) Shawn Davis, NE; Shane Brandon, ICC; Jeff Barkley, NE; David Duncan, NE; Jimmy Francis, ICC; Will Johnson, NE; Phillip Parker, NE; Tim Stults, ICC; (girls) Patti Holcomb, ICC; Tricia Babb, ICC; Stella McClain, NE; Natalie Ellis, ICC; Mitzi Gann, NE; Elizabeth Thurmond, NE. Not pictured are BSU directors Wayne Vandiver of ICC and Joe Cobb of NE.

Drummond shares dream for Southeastern

By Marv Knox

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — President Lewis A. Drummond shared his "plan of goals and dreams" for Southeastern Seminary during the school's trustee meeting March 13-15.

But trustee discussion of a resolution to affirm those dreams caused some observers to believe faculty members were told to adopt the dreams or leave.

Drummond presented a 14-page paper that focused on academic, practical and spiritual development at Southeastern.

"My personal big dream is the development of a world mission and evangelism center," he said. "Southern Baptists are no doubt the largest group of evangelical Christians in the history of Christianity. Here we are as Southern Baptists without that which has made such a difference in other seminaries — a real world mission/evangelism school."

"No academic corners will be cut. We will continue to maintain the highest scholarly standards. There's nothing like this in the eastern half of America. I'm convinced we could attract people from all over the country."

Drummond also proposed a \$12 million to \$14 million development campaign to fund capital needs, en-

dowment of the mission/evangelism center and general endowment for personnel salary increases. Enrollment should grow from 780 students now to 1,500 in 1995 and 2,000 by 2000.

He proposed requiring all students to take witness training or discipleship courses, encouraging all students to be involved in prayer and Bible study groups on campus, making personal witnessing opportunities available to students, and launching "a spirit of revival and spiritual awakening" on campus.

Drummond's dream also included development of the faculty's classroom and writing skills; formation of new curriculum to help students minister in a "secular-humanistic society"; enlargement of continuing education programs; development of "research centers"; more faculty; encouragement of a "wholesome evangelical, church-oriented spirit"; creation of "delivery systems" to provide off-campus education; and formation of centers for teaching ethnic students.

Following his speech, James R. DeLoach, an associate pastor from Houston, offered a resolution commending Drummond and pledging that trustees "buy into" his dream.

During discussion, DeLoach said, "I hope that any faculty or administrator (who) cannot buy into this

dream... will be man- and woman-enough to absent themselves from the seminary."

Mark Caldwell, a pastor from University Park, Md., who cast the lone dissenting vote to the motion, said: "I do not agree that if a faculty member does not agree, he or she should leave the school, that a trustee who does not agree should resign. We're moving too fast without regard for people involved."

C. Michael Hawn, president of the seminary's American Association of University Professors chapter, asked: "How can you have a school of academic integrity when you don't allow opposing views?"

"Also, I would doubt that he has ever in his life encountered such integrity as exists on this campus, especially the faculty. They were dedicated to the vision of this school as its founders stated it, and there was every indication it had prospered."

Hawn cited the high percentage of faculty who are former missionaries and the students' participation in "praxis" church-starting programs as evidence that "charges against our commitment to missions and evangelism don't hold up."

In an interview, DeLoach said he did not mean to threaten faculty:

"That statement in no way is intended to ask anybody to leave... I was

simply asking students, faculty, administrators and alumni to take steps toward Dr. Drummond. I will take no part in a movement to move faculty out of this seminary."

Drummond said of the incident: "I was not in concurrence in that statement with Dr. DeLoach. He apologized for it. That would not be the position of me, the trustees, nor Dr. DeLoach."

In other business, the trustees: — Referred back to their instruction committee the question of whether to make the Southern Baptist Convention's doctrinal confession, the Baptist Faith and Message, its official faith statement.

Southeastern and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary are the only two SBC entities that have not adopted the Baptist Faith and Message as the official doctrinal statement. The two seminaries both have the same statement, written in 1859 when Southern Seminary was founded. Southern calls it the Abstract of Principles, and Southeastern calls it the Articles of Faith.

A messenger to the 1988 SBC annual meeting offered a motion that the two schools adopt the Baptist Faith and Message. The motion was referred to the schools' trustees.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.



Powerline for teens

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

What am I missing?

QUESTION:

I want to have faith in Christ, but I don't. I've tried to convince myself that I believe in him, but it hasn't worked. Several of my friends are what I call Jesus freaks. One friend is a rabbi, another a Mormon. My mother is a Bahai, my father a Catholic. I attend a Presbyterian school. My German teacher is a Quaker. I could go on like that. I've seen many sides to the question of Christ. None of them move me. Perhaps I just don't know what I'm missing. Maybe you could help me find out.

ANSWER:

We readily admit that one's relationship to Christ is conditioned by her immediate environment. Some

kids are raised in simplistic surroundings where homogeneous beliefs produce a child-like faith. Others are products of a pluralistic social environment where the streams of belief converge to form eddies, whirlpools, and even cataracts.

Without deserting your associates, why not add a specific Christian fellowship to assist in your quest for Christian faith? Can you find a small group, or a church, or even a single friendship where there is an atmosphere of faith? It is no accident that like minds associate with one another and make contributions to the strengthening of their mutual concerns. Christian friends may very well help you to find Christ.

One of the things I like about Jesus is that he laid out a way of life, illustrated what he meant, practiced it himself, and left it there. No haranguing, no weeping, no flailing arms or wild eyes. In fact, he showed something almost like unconcern as to what his hearers did with his truth. It wasn't that he didn't care. It was more that he knew the human will could not be coerced. So he invited men to consider, to believe, to respond. I hope you will.

Resumes requested, Annuity Board

DALLAS — Resumes for the next Annuity Board president will be accepted until June 1, according to

George H. Balentine Jr., chairman of the search committee. Current President Darold H. Morgan has announced his desire to retire in early 1990. He will be 65 on Aug. 5.

Resumes should be mailed to Balentine at 211 Old Town Way, Simpsonville, S.C. 29681.

It costs more to buy the average new car in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake his maiden voyage to the New World. — David Louis, Fascinating Facts

Baptist Record

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